

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 801
By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John and Dana Butler as
the National Young Farmers of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, John and Dana Butler are such outstanding Tennesseans who have brought honor to this State; in January, they were named as the 2004 National Young Farmers of the Year at the American Farm Bureau Convention in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the honor is a well-deserved acknowledgment of the character of the Butlers and of their remarkably successful and diverse agricultural operations on 3,450 acres, which include cotton, soybean, corn, wheat, hardwood timber, pasture and hay, a 500-head commercial cowherd, and stocker calves, and they operate a specialty agricultural equipment company; and

WHEREAS, the Butlers follow a rich family tradition of agriculture, as they work on a farm that has been within the family since 1860; Mr. Butler is a fifth generation farmer on his mother Janelle's side and a fourth generation farmer on his father Henry's side; and

WHEREAS, farming is in the blood of the Butlers, who returned to the old homestead in 1994, lured back by the opportunity to help their children, Elizabeth, Daniel, and John Robert, learn the work ethic and develop the character that are so readily imbued by the rural life; and

WHEREAS, since taking over the family operation, John and Dana have displayed the agricultural vision that was obvious when John served as Vice President of the Tennessee Future Farmers of America in 1987-1988; and

WHEREAS, that same wisdom and natural leadership has also precipitated Mr. Butler's service as Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors of the Dyer County Farm

Bureau, President of the Tennessee Young Farmers, and a member of the Boards of Directors of the Tennessee Beef Industry Council and the Tennessee Farm Bureau and Mrs. Butler's service as Reporter of the Tennessee Young Farmers Committee; they have also shared their time and many talents as members of the American Soybean Association, the 2001 Dupont Young Leaders National Committee, and the Dyer County Young Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, their professional and civic accomplishments aside, this wonderful couple is blessed by tremendous love and companionship; they strive to maintain the highest family values and are the proud and devoted parents of three great children; and

WHEREAS, devout Christians, the Butlers are active members of their church, serving as Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and in the church choir; and

WHEREAS, farmers are some of the most vital members of our society, and the Butlers are innovators and have done much to ensure that agriculture continues to thrive in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Butlers for their personal and professional excellence and for their dedication to this vital sector of our State's economy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend John and Dana Butler on becoming the American Farm Bureau's 2004 National Young Farmers of the Year and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.